

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012, 5:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
CITY HALL BUILDING, 2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

**Members Present: 7**

Gene Finke, Chair, John Karlsruher, Francisco X. Dominguez (5:32 p.m.), Vice-Chair, Gilbert A. Mendez, Jr. (5:38 p.m.), David Thackston, James L. Graham, Alisa Jorgensen

**Members Absent: 2**

Oscar Silva and Rodolfo Troncoso

**Planning and Economic Development Staff:**

David Coronado, Executive Secretary, Lead Planner; Todd Taylor, Planner; Mariano Soto, Planner, GIS; Marissa Monroy, Economic Development Coordinator

**Others Present:**

Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Finke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Establish Quorum**

Quorum established.

**3. Discussion and action on:**

a. Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2011 Meeting

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners had any additions, corrections and/or revisions.

Commissioner Jorgensen noted the following discrepancies:

PAGE 4 OF 10, PARAGRAPH BEGINNING "COMMISSIONER GRAHAM EXPLAINED ..." ADD SPACE BETWEEN "District 7to"

Vice-Chair Dominguez arrived.

PAGE 5 OF 10, REVISE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:

"Commissioner Thackston stated that PD-1 shows precinct 60, staying ~~where~~ in District 4 ..."

PAGE 6 OF 10, REVISE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

1. Commissioner Jorgensen noted that Commissioners began meeting in October and she ~~would—that~~ was concerned that the Commission would become ~~so~~ too introspective ~~that if~~ Commissioners do not go out to the public.
2. Commissioner Jorgensen was ~~hesitate~~ hesitant to schedule ...

PAGE 7 OF 10, REVISE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:

"Ideally an alternative A and B that the public could react to, Commissioners possibly might approve a third, once it comes back to the Commissioner based on ~~what your~~ the comments.

Commissioner Jorgensen had hoped Commissioner Mendez would be present to clarify the "(inaudible)" in the following paragraph.

FOR THE RECORD

Mr. Coronado requested the following revision:

PAGE 1 OF 10, MEMBERS PRESENT, REVISE RODOL~~PHO~~ TO RODOLFO

GENERAL COMMENT REGARDING THESE AND OTHER MINUTES

Chair Finke stated the minutes do not have to be grammatically correct as long as they accurately convey what Commissioners and others in the audience have said. If we went through all the grammatical corrections we would be here for quite some time. Those corrections which are important and fundamental, as Commissioner Jorgensen has pointed out, do have to be entered.

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Thackston and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 14, 2011 MEETING MINUTES, AS CORRECTED.*

**NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE:** Commissioner Mendez

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COMMISSIONER THACKSTON CLARIFICATION

At this time, Commissioner Thackston explained that prior to the start of the meeting he had provided incorrect information to a member of the public regarding the four public meeting locations. Commissioner Thackston clarified the four public meetings locations as:

1. Franklin High School
2. Memorial Park Senior Citizen Center
3. Mission Valley Regional Command
4. Cielo Vista Library

b. Drafting and selection of Districting Plans

Mr. Coronado gave a brief presentation and elaborated on the proposed boundary lines and precinct changes for CD-3 (Commissioner Draft 3) and PD-2 (Public Draft 2).

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Before the holiday break, Commissioner Jorgensen explained she and Commissioner Karlsruher met with Planning Staff to discuss what changes could be made to Districts 1 and 8. After discussing various scenarios and Precincts, Commissioners Jorgensen and Karlsruher agreed to support the CD-2 map. Commissioner Jorgensen explained that CD-2 shows the Kern Place, Robinson and surrounding neighborhoods remaining in District 1. However after her meeting with Commissioner Karlsruher, Commissioner Jorgensen reviewed the PD-1 map to see whether or not preserving the eastern portion of the city was possible and looked at what she thought might be an alternative for Districts 1 and 8.

Commissioner Karlsruher concurred with Commissioner Jorgensen regarding CD-2.

Chair Finke asked Commissioners Jorgensen and Karlsruher whether or not the CD-3 map preserves the integrity of the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Karlsruher explained the CD-3 map preserves the integrity of the neighborhoods as much as any of the other maps; no map is perfect but neighborhood integrity is probably still intact at this point.

For Districts 1 and 8, Commissioner Jorgensen concurred and added that CD-3 is much less disruptive than splitting the Upper Valley.

Regarding the Airport Precinct shift in PD-2, Commissioner Mendez asked if there were any development restrictions or covenants preventing housing development in that area.

Mr. Coronado understood that for properties owned by the Airport, residential uses are not allowed, however, retail, commercial, office, and hotel uses are allowed.

Vice-Chair Dominguez asked Staff to clarify the proposed southern boundary lines for Districts 2 and the changes in Districts 3 and 4.

Mr. Coronado explained the boundary lines in those areas.

Commissioner Mendez felt the Neighborhood Associations around the Paisano area may have concerns regarding the boundary line shift for District 3 and that the addition of the Airport is not notable due to the restricted residential development. He asked Staff what the population of the Precincts close to the Airport are.

Mr. Coronado responded over 3,000 people are shown in that area.

Commissioner Mendez noted he would visit the area and he stated the PD-2 map was unfavorable to District 3. Community involvement is primarily in the Precincts that were shifted to District 2. He asked Staff what the names of the Neighborhood Associations in the Airport area were.

The following Neighborhood Associations are located in the Airport area:

1. Chamizal
2. Lincoln
3. Pasadena
4. Cielo Vista

Commissioner Mendez will get feedback from those Neighborhood Associations; however, that feedback may not be positive. He asked Staff what, other than the total deviation number, were the benefits of the PD-2 map.

Mr. Coronado responded he would let Ms. Cooper answer that question.

For clarification, Vice-Chair Dominguez asked Staff if the PD-2 map is Ms. Cooper's map and if these are changes that she made since the last meeting.

Mr. Coronado concurred and added that it is the second map she has created. Staff has her first map, PD-1, on file.

Regarding the CD-3 map, Commissioner Mendez asked Commissioners what the drawbacks were, and if Commissioners had any negative comments.

Commissioner Graham gave background information regarding the PD-2 map and the configuration of the Districts on the east side of town. In his opinion, those Districts remain less than optimal with regard to keeping contiguous boundaries, and compact and easily definable boundary lines. Those are some of the criteria that Commissioners were to consider. In both of these maps Districts 3, 5, 6, and 7 cling to the status quo, changing the general configuration as little as possible. Whereas in CD-1a, CD1b and CD-2, Districts 5, 6, and 7 are open to the east. Although Commissioners are not to consider future growth, those were forward thinking in that manner, contiguous, compact and had readily definable boundaries. Neither of these two maps takes those design features into consideration.

In response to Commissioner Mendez' question, Commissioner Karlsruher stated that CD-3 shifts Precincts 32, 33 and 35 from District 1 to District 8. He has previously discussed the reasons why he is not in support of that. He pointed out that the current District 1 City Council Representative, Ann Lilly, resides in the Precinct 35 area. Representative Lilly's term will end in 2015, if a map in the configuration of CD-3 is approved, Representative Lilly would be representing a District that she does not live in; something he would like to avoid.

Commissioner Mendez asked Staff what the overall deviation numbers for CD-1 and CD-2 were.

The deviation totals for:

1. CD-1a is 12.7%
2. CD-1b is 3.5% and
3. CD-2 is 7.6%

To Ms. Taylor, Commissioner Jorgensen clarified the Department of Justice wants Commissioners to be below 10% and that a lower deviation of 3.5% is no better than 7.6% as long as they are both below the 10% benchmark.

Ms. Taylor explained that the intent is to balance the Districts as closely as possible; ideally, the lower, the closer to the goal. In terms of balancing the Districts, 10% is the minimum in terms of meeting that goal.

Regarding the east/west configuration, Commissioner Mendez remarked that there is a notable difference between the CD-1b and PD-2 maps.

Commissioner Graham found the CD-3 map to be remarkably similar to the CD-1b map with regard to the relationships of Districts 1 and 8. But the similarity is lost in the eastern Districts. The design features of easily definable boundaries, contiguousness, and compactness are lost as we regress to the current north/south configuration.

Chair Finke would like to see the Commissioners from the eastern Districts satisfied with the final map and hoped that would be achievable.

Commissioner Graham responded that would be ideal; however, he would not be opposed to having one of two or three maps to present to the public in that old regressive configuration on the eastside, for public comment. He added that Commissioners need to give credence to the time and effort that Ms. Cooper has put in, whatever motives they may be, political or otherwise. Regarding Districts 5, 6, and 7, Commissioner Graham felt it also wise to have at least one of the maps have that east/west configuration that meets those three guideline criteria more closely.

Commissioner Jorgensen explained, as the author of the CD-3 map, she felt the CD-3 map was a minor edit of PD-1. Additionally, Ms. Cooper has taken it upon herself to change her map further. If it advances the Commission further, Commissioner Jorgensen would be happy to withdraw the CD-3 map. Commissioner Jorgensen appreciated Commissioner Graham's comment regarding the two very visually different configurations of the eastern Districts; one represented by Ms. Cooper's maps and one represented by Commissioner Graham's original map. Ideally, Commissioner Jorgensen stated she would like to see one map representing the eastside Districts; however, for healthy public discussion she suggested bringing two to three maps to the public.

\*At this time, Chair Finke moved to agenda item 3.d. Proposed schedule of public meetings to receive comments.

c. Review of written comments submitted to date

\*\*Chair Finke asked Staff to enter into the record an opinion piece that was printed in the El Paso Times, Sunday, January 8, 2012. The columnist is Miguel Juárez. Chair Finke would like this opinion piece entered into the record. Chair Finke asked if any of the Commissioners had had an opportunity to read the column. Commissioner Thackston noted he had read it. Chair Finke will distribute copies of the editorial to the other Commissioners. (Copy of editorial shown below)

El Paso Times 01/08/2012

Copy Reduced to %d%% from original to fit letter page

## Get involved in city redistricting process

By Miguel Juárez  
GUEST COLUMNIST



Each time the City of El Paso obtains new U.S. Census data, it seeks to balance out the voting districts by redistricting. In its process, the city strives "to establish race-neutral criteria for district plan drawing that are consistent with traditional districting principles and applicable legal standards."

The Districting Commission appointed by the mayor and City Council has met five times since October 2011 to prepare different maps and redraw district lines to reflect voters residing in each district. Few citizens have attended these important meetings, which are also attended by Planning and Economic Development staff and the city's legal staff. Both the commission and the

**Make plans**  
► The next Districting Commission meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in City Council Chambers.

voters. Therefore, the city must submit the current district map and proposed redistricting maps, which may also include those submitted by the public, for analysis and pre-approval by the DOJ or the District Court of the District of Columbia before it can be implemented.

The final map will then be used in the 2013 general election. The City Council has addi-

tionally instructed the Districting Commission to create fair and equitable maps based, to the extent possible, on the following criteria: "(1) following easily identifiable geographic boundaries; (2) maintaining communities of interest and neighborhoods; (3) using whole voting precincts; (4) basing the redistricting plan on existing districts; (5) adopting districts of equal size; (6) drawing compact and contiguous districts; (7) consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas; (8) narrowly tailoring the plan to avoid retrogression; and (9) prohibiting cracking or packing minority voters or otherwise prejudicing minority voters."

Meetings adhere to the Texas

Open Meetings Act and individuals are welcome to offer public input on any of the agenda items at the public meetings.

Citizens are also welcome to create and submit their own maps, but they must do so in writing and must adhere to 2010 Federal Census total population and voting age population by race/ethnicity for each proposed district.

Maps must be submitted one week prior to a regularly scheduled commission meeting. Individuals who plan to present their own maps need to first meet with the city's lead planner, David Coronado, prior to submitting their maps. Coronado can be contacted at: coronadoda@elpasoctexas.gov

In the meetings to date, several problematic issues have surfaced. For one, there has

been little news reporting or coverage of these meetings. Second, the commission recently boldly reduced the number of community input sessions, or "charrettes," from seven to four without requesting public comments or input. Third, all of the commissioners live north of Interstate 10 and only one community meeting has been scheduled south of the freeway.

Because El Paso has the unfortunate history of promoting and using I-10 as a boundary and barrier to inclusive and meaningful participation, it is important residents attend these meetings and have their voices heard because representation is at stake.

Miguel Juárez is a doctoral student at the University of Texas at El Paso and teaches in the Department of Borderlands and Urban History.

Mr. Coronado explained Staff had distributed copies of the comments submitted by members of the public to Commissioners. Copies of the same were also available for members of the public. Mr. Coronado explained there were three comments submitted either via email, directly to City Staff or the Districting Commission website.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ONE**

**Comment Submitted by:** Evangeline De Luna

**Date Submitted:** Wednesday, December 14, 2011

**Received by:** David A. Coronado, Alejandro F. Orrantia

**Submitted Via:** Districting Commission Website

**Reviewed by Districting Commission on:** Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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-----Original Message-----

From: [webmaster@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:webmaster@elpasotexas.gov) [<mailto:webmaster@elpasotexas.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 10:52 PM

To: Orrantia, Alejandro F.

Subject: DC website public comment: general comment

A visitor with the following details has left a comment:

First Name: Evangeline

Last Name: De Luna

E-mail:

Comment: In setting new boundaries for District 8, please include BOTH SIDES of Murchison Drive in the same district. Currently, the north side belongs to District 2. The houses behind the north side are on an elevation of 50-60 feet.

In response to Ms. De Luna's comment, Mr. Coronado explained currently Murchison Drive serves as the Precinct line for adjacent Precincts 70 and 41. The boundary line has not changed with the new County Precincts, to date.

Chair Finke recalled the north side of Murchison Drive; Murchison Drive goes right up into Scenic Drive; there are a few homes there.

Mr. Coronado understood Ms. De Luna's concern was that Murchison Drive would no longer served as the boundary and then have one District represent both the north and south sides of Murchison Drive.

Commissioner Graham noticed those are also Precinct boundaries that street. He was afraid the boundary line would have to stand.

Mr. Coronado explained should Commissioners want to address this comment, via a map; the two Precincts would have to shift to either District 2 or 8. Only the CD-1b map shows both Precincts in District 8.

**PUBLIC COMMENT TWO**

**Comment Submitted by:** Joseph Longo

**Date Submitted:** Thursday, December 15, 2011

**Received by:** David A. Coronado, Alejandro F. Orrantia

**Submitted Via:** Districting Commission Website

**Reviewed by Districting Commission on:** Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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-----Original Message-----

From: [webmaster@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:webmaster@elpasotexas.gov) [<mailto:webmaster@elpasotexas.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 9:47 AM

To: Orrantia, Alejandro F.

Subject: DC website public comment: general comment

A visitor with the following details has left a comment:

First Name: joseph

Last Name: longo

E-mail:

Comment: I have a house in Dist.2 on matterhorn street on hondo pass and the voting percent is Stanton elementary and I just don't like the fact that my area is in the central district because it very much separated from central and it always been considered the northeast by me and other residents .So what the possibility that we extend dist. four since based on the maps I saw last night at the redistricting commission meeting that my area hondo pass bordered the dist 4 and dist. 2. Can commission look at this possibility. Joseph longo

Mr. Coronado explained Mr. Longo's concern is that his neighborhood is considered by the residents to be part of the Northeast. Mr. Longo would like Precinct 64 to be shifted from District 2 to District 4. Commissioner Thackston thought Precinct 64 was currently in District 4. The maps CD-2 and PD-3 show Precinct 64 located in District 2; the CD-1b map shows Precinct 64 located in District 4.

Mr. Coronado clarified the Precinct, referred to by Mr. Longo, is located in District 2. The area residents feel the Precinct belongs with the District 4. All 11 maps, presented to Commissioners, show Precinct 64 located in District 2.

Commissioner Thackston asked Staff to provide him with Mr. Longo's telephone number. Commissioner Thackston would like to invite Mr. Longo to Representative Robinson's breakfast meeting this Friday.



**PUBLIC COMMENT THREE**

**Comment Submitted by:** Arlina Palacios

**Date Submitted:** Wednesday, December 21, 2011

**Received by:** Marie Taylor

**Submitted Via:** E-Mail

**Reviewed by Districting Commission on:** Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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**From:** Ortega, Steve

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2011 4:42 PM

**To:** Taylor, Marie A.

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Constituent Concern

Marie,

A constituent, Arlina Palacios, expressed concern that some representatives may be hosting more than a quorum of members from the redistricting committee. I told her that I would pass along the info to you. Her email address is above.

Thank you.

-Steve

Mr. Coronado explained this email was submitted directly to Representative Steve Ortega.

Ms. Taylor explained she received this email from Representative Ortega who had received it from a constituent who was concerned that a quorum was being held outside of this meeting setting. Ms. Taylor reminded Commissioners that at our first meeting, Commissioners received an orientation on the Open Meetings Act. The Open Meetings Act material is posted on the website.

Chair Finke asked Commissioners if anyone had appeared at a quorum hosted by a City Representative. Commissioners responded no, they had not.

To, Ms. Taylor reiterated, for the benefit of the public, that Staff did train Commissioners regarding the Open Meetings Act and that the material is part of a presentation posted on the website for the Districting Commission.

*\*\*\*At this time Commissioners and Staff moved to back to agenda item 3.d. Proposed schedule of public meetings to receive comments.*

d. Proposed schedule of public meetings to receive comments

\*Although the Districting Commission will meet January 25<sup>th</sup>, Chair Finke explained, the first of the public meetings is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 6:00 p.m., Franklin High School. Chair Finke felt it would be incumbent upon Commissioners to bring the same sets

of maps to each of the public meetings, for the first round of public meetings. Chair Finke envisioned Commissioners having subsequent rounds of public meetings.

Mr. Coronado clarified Staff will present the same maps at each of the four public meetings. After gathering all the public comments, Staff and Commissioners will meet again and Staff will present the public comments.

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners could settle on the three maps to present to the public for the first round of meetings.

Commissioner Thackston suggested that Commissioners present the maps with the biggest deviation boundary-wise; either CD-1b or CD-2 and either PD-2 or CD-3. Secondly, the Kern Place area seems to be a sticking point between Districts 1 and 8 and Commissioners should be show the public an alternative there as well.

Vice-Chair Dominguez thanked Commissioner Jorgensen and Ms. Cooper for their time and effort in creating these maps presented to Commissioners today. He felt the two maps have really shaken up District 2. In his opinion, the two maps were creative and brought new change. In terms of moving things along, Vice-Chair Dominguez recommended that the CD-3, PD-2 and CD-1b maps be presented to the public.

Commissioner Jorgensen was concerned with presenting the maps CD-1b; this is the map that moves both Representatives Lilly (District 1) and Byrd (District 2) out of their Districts. That might be too big a leap to take. She suggested Commissioners choose a different map.

Commissioner Graham noted District 8 looks very similar in the CD-1b map as it does in the CD-3 map, it has the same shape.

Commissioner Jorgensen explained that that was the basis for her editing Commissioner Graham's map; she had tried to leverage all the changes that Commissioner Graham had made to the eastside of town but move the two Representatives back to their home Districts.

Vice-Chair Dominguez asked Staff what the northern boundary lines were for Precinct 70.

Mr. Coronado responded Sacramento and Alabama.

Commissioner Graham suggested Commissioners make a minor adjustment in order to have one map that incorporates this new basic design for District 8, some compromise between CD-1b and CD-3 just in regard to Representative Byrd's Precinct.

Commissioner Karlsruher clarified Representative Lilly was re-elected last year to a four year term and will be in office until 2015. Should Commissioners move Precinct 35 to District 8, Representative Lilly would be living in a District she does not represent. Many of

Representative Lilly's supporters reside in the area of Precincts 32, 33, and 35. There is a really strong case to be made in leaving Precincts 32, 33, and 35 in District 1.

Vice-Chair Dominguez asked Mr. Coronado if the SD-5 map was an attempt to address some of the issues within the CD-1b map.

Mr. Coronado explained at the first Districting Commission meeting Staff presented the SD-1, SD-2 and SD-3 maps, just to start the discussion. At the second meeting, Staff presented the SD-4 and SD-5 maps in response to Commissioner's comments.

Regarding the SD-5 map, Commissioner Jorgensen explained that that map split the Upper Valley and moved the Chamizal neighborhood out of District 8. She has serious concerns with the SD-5 map and would not advocate that map moving forward.

#### **SD-5 MAP**

Mr. Coronado explained the proposed boundary line for all Districts.

To Commissioner Thackston, Mr. Coronado noted the total deviation for the CD-2 map is 7.6%.

Commissioner Mendez asked Staff to bring up the CD-2 map.

#### **CD-2 MAPS**

Mr. Coronado explained the proposed boundary line changes for all Districts.

Commissioner Mendez felt the CD-2 map changed the boundaries in one of the well-established Neighborhood Associations in District 3. Commissioner Mendez could not support this map; however, he could support the CD-1 map. He wondered if there was a way to modify the CD-1 map that would address the two City Council Representatives Precincts.

Commissioner Jorgensen explained that Commissioners will be proposing two or three maps that no one is completely happy with.

#### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Vice-Chair Dominguez and* **CARRIED THAT COMMISSIONERS GO FORWARD WITH THREE MAPS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHOWING THE BEST DEVIATION FOR PUBLIC DISCOURSE. THE THREE MAPS ARE:**

1. CD-1b, total deviation 3.5%
2. PD-2, total deviation 5.4%
3. CD-3, total deviation 6.9%

Commissioner Thackston explained these three maps show the north/south, east/west configurations on the eastside, the Kern Place area in both Districts 1 and 8, and the CD-1b map shows a shift in Precincts 57 or 60 within his District, District 4.

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners had any further discussion.

Commissioner Karlsruher concurred with Commissioner Thackston's comments.

No further comments. Chair Finke asked Commissioners to signify how they move on the motion individually.

**AYES:** Commissioners Karlsruher, Vice-Chair Dominguez, Commissioners Mendez, Thackston, and Graham

**NAY:** Commissioner Jorgensen

Motion passed. 5-1

For clarification, Chair Finke reiterated the motion, which was seconded and moved by a majority vote – *The three maps that will go forward to the public in the public outreach meetings in the schedule that is before Commissioners starting January 31<sup>st</sup> will be CD-1b, PD-2, CD-3.*

*\*\*At this time Chair Finke moved to agenda item 3c. Review of written comments submitted to date.*

*\*\*\*At the December 14, 2011 meeting, Mr. Coronado explained that Commissioners adopted the four public meeting locations:*

- 1. Franklin High School, Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 6:00 p.m.*
- 2. Memorial Park Senior Center, Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9:00 a.m.*
- 3. Cielo Vista Branch Library, Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 6:00 p.m.*
- 4. Mission Valley Regional Command, Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9:00 a.m.*

Staff has booked the four venues for the specific locations, dates, and times.

Chair Finke asked Staff if it was necessary for a quorum of the Commission to be present at these meetings and stated the he wanted to ensure that at least one Commissioner at each of these meetings.

Mr. Coronado explained that it is not, however, Staff will post these meetings as if they were Commission meetings in the event a quorum of the Commissioners is present.

Mr. Coronado asked Commissioners to coordinate with each of their City Representatives in assisting with public outreach messages. Additionally, Staff will publish the Public Outreach Meetings Schedule in the newsletter, newspaper, on the web and in television news spots.

Ms. Taylor noted, via the City's Neighborhood Services Division, Staff will also be inviting all Neighborhood Associations.

Commissioner Thackston asked what the format of the public meetings will be, will the Chair or Vice-Chair be conducting the meetings.

Ms. Taylor explained, in the event of a quorum, should the Chair and Vice-Chair not be present, Commissioners present will elect someone to be the presiding officer. If there is not a quorum, Staff will open the meeting with a presentation, provide background information on redistricting, introduce the maps with a description, and then allow public comment. For those individuals who do not feel comfortable speaking, written comment sheets will be available.

Chair Finke asked if the meetings would be electronically recorded.

Mr. Coronado responded that Staff will use digital recorders, which Staff has been utilizing since the first meeting. Copies of the digital recordings will be available if necessary.

Ms. Taylor added Staff has arranged to have Spanish interpreter services for all the public outreach meetings.

Chair Finke put forth the following motion ***THAT THE PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING SCHEDULE BEFORE THE COMMISSION (CHAIR FINKE READ INTO THE RECORD FOLLOWING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS)***

<b><i>DATE</i></b>	<b><i>TIME</i></b>	<b><i>LOCATION</i></b>
<i>Tuesday, January 31, 2012</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Franklin High School</i>
<i>Saturday, February 4, 2012</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Memorial Park Senior Center</i>
<i>Tuesday, February 7, 2012</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Cielo Vista Branch Library</i>
<i>Saturday, February 11, 2012</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Mission Valley Regional Command</i>

***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Thackston and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS SCHEDULE BEFORE THE COMMISSION BE APPROVED:*

**4. Call for Public Comment**

Mr. Coronado noted there were three members of the public who had signed up to speak:

1. Ms. Minerva Acosta, District 3 resident, stated Ms. Cooper was not political; she created these maps because she is a concerned citizen. She asked the Chair to have the people on this Committee to refrain from making comments like that.

*At this time, Chair Finke asked Staff to set the comment limit to five minutes.*

2. Mr. Roberto Lerma, District 3 resident, would like Commissioners to review maps from the 1960's and 1970's and the way those maps were drawn, specifically regarding the Border Districts from Segundo Barrio all the way to Thomas Manor along the Rio Grande river.

3. Ms. Laurie Cooper requested Commissioners add two additional public outreach meetings, to be located at:
  - a. Jefferson High School
  - b. Riverside High School

The following members of the public had not signed up to speak but wished to address the Commissioners:

4. Ms. Arlina Palacios, District 7 resident, did not appreciate Commissioners reducing the number of public meetings from seven to four. Additionally, she had concerns that Commissioners, other than Commissioner Thackston, will attend Representative Robinson's breakfast meeting.
5. Mr. John W. Vandeven, Jr.
6. Ms. Rosa Cabrera, District 8 resident

Commissioner Thackston explained he was asked by his City Council Representative, Representative Robinson, to be the guest speaker at Representative Robinson's breakfast meeting this Friday. Mr. Coronado will also be attending.

Chair Finke stated he could not foresee any objection to a Commissioner attending his/her City Representative's weekly, quarterly, monthly meetings.

Ms. Taylor understood that there would be only one Commissioner attending this breakfast meeting to share what the work of the Commission has been so far, future meeting dates and locations, etc. For clarification, Ms. Taylor stated there is no planned meeting of the Commission, and there will not be any other Commissioners in attendance.

Vice-Chair Dominguez addressed Ms. Acosta, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Palacios and Ms. Cabrera. Regarding the maps, he thanked Ms. Cooper for her hard work, time, effort and input and was appreciative of all the work the other Commissioners have contributed. He was not aware of any back dealing or anything of that nature. For the record, Vice-Chair Dominguez stated he did not think there was any intent to exclude or offend anyone.

For the January 25<sup>th</sup> agenda, Commissioner Graham suggested adding an item "Discussion of additional meeting places."

Commissioner Jorgensen suggested canceling the meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> in favor of another public meeting, south of I-10 or the Lower Valley.

Ms. Taylor requested Commissioners make a motion to reconsider the proposed meeting schedule.

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Dominguez to reconsider our decision to limit public meetings to those four meetings and that Commissioners consider additional sites and additional meetings.*

Ms. Taylor requested Commissioners make a motion to reconsider agenda item 3d. Proposed schedule of public meetings to receive comments.

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Dominguez, seconded by Commissioner Thackston and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECONSIDER THE AGENDA ITEM.***

Commissioner Karlsruher suggested holding an additional meeting at the Main Library or Armijo. He felt the Main Library was an easily identifiable location for the residents of the Central area.

Mr. Coronado suggested holding a public outreach meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> in one of those locations and adding a second meeting at one of the high schools mentioned earlier. Staff will research which dates are available and reserve those.

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Chair Finke **TO AMEND THE PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING SCHEDULE MOTION BY ADDING THE MAIN LIBRARY AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MEETING ON THE 25<sup>th</sup>, CONTINGENT ON AVAILABILITY.***

Ms. Taylor suggested the second meeting location be held somewhere in the Mission Valley or east Central area. She asked Commissioners to direct Staff to set up that meeting at either one of the locations.

Chair Finke asked Ms. Taylor if she was suggesting adding two more meeting sites, for the first round of public meetings.

Ms. Taylor responded yes and explained, in terms of looking at these first three maps; we should probably consider that as a block. We could have seven meetings, four have already been scheduled. She requested Commissioners direct Staff to schedule a meeting at either Jefferson or Riverside High Schools, depending on availability. Ms. Taylor explained Commissioners have indicated the Main Library as the site for the sixth meeting and either one of the high schools for the seventh meeting.

Chair Finke noted four meetings have already been schedule, he asked if Ms. Taylor was requesting three more meeting locations.

Ms. Taylor apologized, she meant to say six.

Mr. Coronado clarified the fifth meeting would be on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Main Library, if available, and then a second location, to be determined.

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Vice-Chair Dominguez AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT COMMISSIONERS EXPAND OUR MEETING SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE THE 25<sup>TH</sup> BEING AT THE MAIN LIBRARY, IN LIEU OF THIS MEETING, AND LET THE STAFF SET UP A SIXTH MEETING, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY, DATES AND LOCATIONS, AS FAR AS THE POSSIBILITY OF JEFFERSON OR RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL.*

Chair Finke requesting adding a caveat, Commissioners need to give Staff a timeframe, within the month of February.

After the vote, Commissioner Thackston clarified the motion language: to expand out meeting schedule to include a fifth meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Downtown Public Library, in lieu of this meeting, and a sixth meeting to be set up by Staff, sometime in the month of February, upon availability of time and location, looking at the possibility of Tuesdays or Saturdays at either Jefferson or Riverside High School.

Vice-Chair Dominguez stated his first choice would be the Riverside High School.

Chair Finke asked Staff to invite the columnist who wrote the column for the El Paso Times, Miguel Juarez to the Commission; it would be nice to have his perspective.

Chair Finke noted there are no further Districting Commission meetings scheduled this month, he asked Staff to suggest the next Districting Commission meeting date.

Mr. Coronado stated the next Districting Commission meeting will be Wednesday, February 22nd.

**5. Adjournment**

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Vice-Chair Dominguez and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.*